Group under the chairmanship of Shri S.C. Gupta, Legal Adviser-in-Charge, Reserve Bank of India to review the efficacy of the existing legislative framework that governs money lending as also the enforcement machinery in different State and make recommendations for its improvement. The model legislation proposed by the Technical Group, *inter-alia,* provides for the following:

* a simple and hassle free procedure for compulsory registration and periodical renewal of their registration by money lenders;
* a simplified dispute resolution mechanism to ensure better enforcement;
* adoption of the rule of 'Damdupat', *i.e.* the interest charged should not exceed the Principal.

The Report of the Group has been submitted and is placed on the website of RBI for comments of the stakeholders.

Smuggling of sandal wood to China

2384. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sandal wood has been smuggled to China *via* Nepal;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been done; and

(c) if not, what action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No such case of smuggling of Sandal Wood has been detected. However there have been number of cases of seizures of Red Sander wood being smuggled to Nepal. The details for the last three years are as below:—

Year	No. of seizure cases	Qty. (in Kgs)	Value of seized goods (Rs. in Lakhs)
2005-06	1	25506.6	89.27
2006-07	8	73275.0	255.45
2007-08 (upto Mar. 08)	7	59144.5	479.37

The intelligence reports also indicate that the Red Sanders Wood are being smuggled to China *via* Nepal.

(c) The filed formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been directed to be alert and vigilant to thwart any attempt of smuggling of Sandal Wood/Red Sanders wood from India to Nepal.

Extension of benefits of insurance facilities to general public

†2385. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALINI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of Indian citizens do not have access to the benefits of insurance facility;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.